

DIARY  
KEPT AT THE  
SIEGE OF LOUISBURG

MARCH 11 — AUGUST 2, 1745

With Notes and an Introduction  
BY  
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# DIARY AT THE SIEGE OF LOUISBURG,

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At a meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY held in Boston on Thursday, February 11, 1909, Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN, in communicating a copy of a journal kept during the first siege of Louisburg, said:—

At the June meeting of the Historical Society in 1897, I presented a copy of Lieutenant Dudley Bradstreet's diary, kept at the siege of Louisburg in 1745. At the time of that meeting the diary belonged to Miss Sarah Coburn Kemp, a descendant, who afterward gave the original manuscript to the Society (Proceedings, second series, XIX. 83). Unfortunately, it was imperfect, and at the beginning lacked entries covering a period of six or seven weeks. I now have to report the gift of another diary kept during that campaign by a member of Lieutenant Bradstreet's company, which to an interesting degree supplements the other diary. It was found two years ago in the garret of a house in Bolton, which was originally a part of Lancaster, and is presented to the Library by John Calvin Lawrence Clark, town clerk of Lancaster. It is Mr. Clark's opinion that it was kept by Benjamin Stearns, a member of the company from Lancaster; and he bases his judgment on the resemblance of the handwriting to other examples of his penmanship now in existence. From the first entry in the diary I am inclined to think that it was written by one of the fourteen men who marched from Groton, on March 11, 1744-1745; but I defer to Mr. Clark's judgment. Of these men John and Daniel Pierce

were brothers, sons of Daniel and Eleanor (Boynton) Pierce.

Whoever the writer of the diary may have been, evidently he belonged to the same organization as Lieutenant Bradstreet, who was an officer in Captain John Warner's Company, Fourth Massachusetts Regiment (Colonel Samuel Willard). Captain Warner was a resident of Lancaster, and presumably his company was made up of soldiers belonging there and in Groton and neighborhood, though no muster roll is now extant. It is known that there were several other Groton men in the company besides those mentioned as marching on March 11, as their names are found in Bradstreet's copy.

The entries in Bradstreet's diary begin on April 22, 1745, and end on January 17, 1746, while the entries in the present diary begin on March 11, 1745, and end on August 2 of the following summer. It is interesting to note that the record of each journal confirms that of the other to a great extent; and a few of the entries made in the present one, particularly during the latter part of June, appear to be almost identical with those in the other.

It is well known that Colonel Willard's regiment was recruited at very short notice, certainly in less than a month; and probably there were not more than fifty or sixty volunteers in Captain Warner's company. Of this number probably one half was from Lancaster and neighborhood, and the other half from Groton and neighborhood; and in the absence of any formal record this estimate may be taken as a fair one. Presumably a similar squad of men marched from Lancaster, perhaps on the same day as the other squad left Groton, and they came together after reaching Boston, although the diary does not mention the fact. It will be seen that there is a marked contrast between the literary attainments of the two diarists, which is not surprising, as Lieutenant Bradstreet was the son of a Harvard graduate and a lineal descendant of Governor Simon Bradstreet. From time to time the diary gives a date or an item which fits into other accounts of the siege so well that occasionally, like a piece in a child's puzzle, it rounds out the whole story. I have printed it without

change, and no attempt has been made to correct either the style or the spelling. The writer evidently was not familiar with the New England coast, and in his entries he has greatly confused the names of various capes and other places.

Memorandum march 11 : 1744/5 : then we Depart[ed] from groaton Namlly Dudly Bradstret and Benj<sup>a</sup> Willson Benj<sup>a</sup> Lakin Jonathan Lakin Jacob Nutting Daniell Blood John Chamblin Stephon Barron finnes Barron Isaac Kent Aaron Boynton gidin Sanderson John Parce & Daniel Parce from groton to Concord: 11: march and from Concord To Charlston: 12: & att Charlston we staid: 5: & on the 18: we went on Board and their we staid 3: days & then wee sailed from Boston to a place called king roade<sup>1</sup> & thar we staid: 4: days and from thence we sailed By Cape Can [Ann] & from thence we sailed to a place called Sheep Cutt harbor river [Sheepscott Bay], march: 27: & there wee staid till y<sup>e</sup> 29: of the . . . s<sup>d</sup> month and then we sailed [to] a place called Conopshot [Penobscot] and [P]eneyquid & then to the Bay fundy and their we was Two Days the weather was Exceedeing Bad for us their arose a greate storm and the seas run mountains high and it did rain very heard and the wind Did Blow very heard so that Wee was fain to let Down our sailes and lett Drive wheir the seas would carrey us and a terriable storm we had so Bad that I thought that Every minet would Be the Last and in the mean while our men was Exceedeing six and Did vomit & as if they would dy and in this Troublsom time and in the mount of Dillkety I hope Every man called upon his god for his Deliver and after sum time the reain and wind did abate and the seays kept hurracagining in sum measuer and By the goodness of god who is willing to save and succer all them that put their trust in him he Blesed us with a fair wind and Brought [us] By cape sables (But their is one thing that I did forgit in my writing in the storm a afors<sup>d</sup> our men was Exedeing sick and did vomet very much as if they would Dy the seas runing mountaining and I hope god Every man thought upon his god as for my part I did not now But Every minet would be the Last when we should Be swallowed up in the deeps []) on the first of aprail we hoisted sail and sailed [out] of the Bay funday and By Cape Sambers [Sambro] and then by Port Looter [Latour] & thence by a place called Bevears [Beaver Harbor] and from thence to a place called Cape Negeors [Negro] Harber and from thence to a place called the Cuntry har-

<sup>1</sup> President's Roads in Boston Harbor.

ber. th : 4 : and their we went on shoer and on : th : 5 : & : 6 : days  
 we Lay : at : an : ankir : th : 7 : Day of the month on : sunday : we  
 sailed about : 3 : Leages out of s<sup>d</sup>. place towards Canso and the  
 wind Being contray we droped anker again and went on shoer  
 and their we found : 2 : graves and a bord set up at the head of  
 their graves wheir 2 mens names was writton : viz : John pinkham  
 and thomas hinkins Buried in the year : 1737 : on monday the : 8 :  
 we hoisted sail again and the saim Day we pased by a place called  
 white head [White Point?] and from thence we sailed to a place  
 caled Canso and on the 8 of aprail By the goodnes of god we all  
 arived at our Desiered haven and Droped ankor on th : 9 : afs<sup>d</sup>  
 month it reained so that we could not git on shoer on the : 10 :  
 Day we went : on shoer and our swardren was joyned whereoff  
 Colo<sup>n</sup> Ritchman [Richmond] was our commander on : th : 17 : of : s<sup>d</sup>  
 month their was an inglish Brig Brought in that was taken from  
 Captain Loveing in the year 1744 Laden with : 5 : hundred hogsits  
 of rum and sum melasoes whereon was a cownsil of war hild on  
 the : 18 : Day to see if our men could not keep sum of the rum  
 and other for the suport of the fleet and on the saim day their was  
 brought in a prize She was taken one Day from the Inglish and  
 the next Day retaken By Cap<sup>t</sup> Bekit [Beckwith] and Cap<sup>t</sup> Deun-  
 hue [Donahue] on the next day their was : 2 : prizes brought in  
 taken By viz Dunehu and Bekit a french Brig an a Cape Can  
 sconer was Brought in the former of them was Laden with Pro-  
 vision and other for the suport of the french : and the saim day just  
 att night our men thought they Espied a french man of war and  
 they all maned them selves and hoisted sail and after them they  
 went to see if they could take her and in the Evening we heard  
 severall guns and on : th : 19 : Day sum of our men found a pakit  
 of Letters on shoer which we did conculed that the french flung  
 over Board when our men fought with her the Pakit was rapped  
 up in a peace of parchment and : on the saim day their was Brought  
 in another prize on monday : th : 29 : Day of aprail we sailed  
 towards Cap briton & on Tuesday : the : 30 : af : s<sup>d</sup> : month we  
 went on shoer and when we was a Landang their came between 2  
 or 3 hundred of french and Indins to Debar us from Landeng but  
 by the goodness of god wee all Landed saif and well and had a  
 scurrmigg with them and sum of them we took Wee took and  
 killed : 17 : on the saim Day that we went on shoer : and traviled  
 about : 3 : miles towards the sitey and then we pitched our campe  
 not far from the sitey : on : may the : 1 : our men took : 8 : and  
 : on : may : th : 2 : they took : 6 : moor and after that took the  
 grand Batry and severall cows and horsies and sum plunder viz  
 sum pots sum kitles sum gridirous som one thing and sum another

and Burnt several houses : may : the : 3 : our men took : 10 : moor  
of the french and shoot several greate guns from the grand batery  
through the goviner house and did Begin to play upon them finley  
4 then we fixed our artilery and did Begin to fling our Bumes into  
the Sittey and made netorious work with them and their Buldings:  
5 : our men took one french man and one negor man may : 6 : on  
the Sabarth Day<sup>1</sup> our men took : 9 : french men and : 2 : wimon  
and the same day our guner was wonded and four of our men by :  
over-loding their guns : 10 : then our men took : 4 : french moor :  
11 : Tuesday our men took : 5 : moor : 12 : 4 : of our me[n] wounded  
and the saim day one off them Died 23 : day of may Sergeant  
Corly Died in the year 1745 and on the : 19 : Day of the saim  
month Cap<sup>t</sup> parss<sup>2</sup> was killed and a famos and a worthy gentle mane  
he was counted Bothe for corige and conduck and a man that  
sought y<sup>e</sup> good of his shoulders as well as the good of his king and  
cuntry on the : 20 : same month our men took 20 moor french  
wimon and children and still our men keep fierang again the wals  
of the sity and their houses & most confused work they made with  
them : by beteing Down their walls and their gats and their forts  
By Bumeing them we toor their houses : and killed severall of  
them as we have heard sence we took this sittty their is one thing  
worthy of our remark one of our cannon balls kiled six french att  
one shoot : we sot sum of their houses on fier in the town : by  
shooteing Bumes but by their craftness they put them out again  
and By the way in this : dificketty times we lost sum men and  
sum wounded : admirall Warrin took a ship judged to be worth  
near a milion of money : my : 23 : our men took : 10 : french men  
and on the : 26 : about : 200 : hundred and : 80 : of our men went  
to take the Island Battrey and as near as we can tell we Lost  
forty : odd in the fight when they was a Landeing, Sum their head  
was cut off and sum their arms and other casuealty that they met  
with So that they was Destroyed and cut off after this our men  
shoot red hot Bullets into their houses and a Mongst them in the  
streets and when they saw them rool along the streets they went  
to take them up Burnt their hands they Not noying they was hot  
so by shooteing the read hoot Ball it sot many of their houses on  
fier but they By their craftness Put them out a gain may : th : 29 :  
Being the Election Day.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The writer sometimes makes a slip in regard to the day of the week : the sixth of May, 1745, fell on Monday, and the eleventh of May on Saturday.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua Pierce, senior captain of the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment.

<sup>3</sup> Alluding to Election day at home in Massachusetts, which fell on the last Wednesday of May.

June the : 2 : our men took : 7 : french men and : 3 : wimon and in a fight that our men had with the french & Indins our men killed and wounded 40 of them as we heard and was informed credably By them that was their

June : th : 3 : then Cap<sup>t</sup> warren took a ritch prize that was Laden with Provison for the french Jun : th : 4 : then our men took : 17 : french and killed : 2 : of them June : th : 5 : then one french man came out from the sitey and : pretending to Be a frind But we found that he was a trator and we secured him fast June : th : 6 : then our sea forces took 2 french ships Laden with rice and other provison for the surport of the french and the same day their came out one french man to our men and resined him self up to them he Being a youngstir June th : 8 : then we was in-fourmed that sum of our men took considrably many of the french wimon and children Sum sade the number was : 70 : and others said Not soo many and as to the seartain number I never could tell

June : 10 : then our men took two Ships of considrably value then in a few Days after : 3 : of our men went on Board the man of war to help and assist them on the sea Because they put : 60 men on Board a sixty gun ship which they had taken from the french : 25 : was in that compney which our men was in on fryday they went on Board and they tarred till the Tuesday folowing and at night they came home all well June : th : 16 : 1745 then the sitty was Delivered into our hands and we took Posesion of all their strong holds and all the glory of Leouisburg the Island Battery and all their strong holds with all their artillirys of war and an Exedein strong place it is as Ever I did hear off or see in all the corse of my life the walls are in sum places are towards : 30 : foot high and at sum places toward 60 : odds foot through the hole siteyacion of the sitey is Exedeing strong Both by Sea and land and their are : 100 : and : 40 : odd ambercars [embrasures] round the wals : 6 : Brass guns are plased along with the rest and : 6 : mortar peaces along side of the walls and in the town : 37 : swivle guns are plased upon the walls and other invenchions to Destroy us when we was ingaged against them and the grand Battrey is an Exedeing strong place also their are ambercars for : 35 : greate guns the walls are very high also Espeshaly by the sea side the Barraks are of an Exedeing great Length and strong with all the watch Boxesis are strong as the former maid with stone and lime sum part of them are Bum proof So that it will stand any Bums or Bullets and all round the watch Boxes in the gard house in Every hole their is a place fixed for swivle guns

21 : Removed our sick to houses towards the sitey and : 2 : men to look after them



: 23 : Sunday cloudy and foggy : 18 french men made their Escape yesterday Brought in their snap sacks and armes and provison & wear commeted to prison : mr moody<sup>1</sup> preacht in the four nook at the camp from provibers : th : 8 : 6 : mr Longdal<sup>2</sup> preacht in the after Noon from hebrews : th : 3 : 13 : the artillery mov<sup>d</sup> from the fascins Battery 24 mon<sup>ly</sup> raney cloudy and foggy Cap<sup>t</sup> rous came in but did not now that the place was taken till he sent his boat on shoer att the camps

25 : tuesday Capt Rous came in to Louisburg from Boston and Brought in : 2 : Bums morters & : 2 : 50 : cannons<sup>3</sup>

26 : wensday fine weather 27 cloudy and foggy and raney Exedeing much and that day we Removed to the housen towards the town

28 : foggy and oliver green [of Groton] dies and is bured five mereens are whipt 29 wett weather Northeing remarkably this day

30 mr moody preacht at the chapiell in the four noon & mr Crocker in the after noon his text was Psalms : 56 : : 12 :

July mondy : th : 1 : fair weather : 2 : a compney comes in and did not now that the place was taken till sun of them came to : our houes wheir we dwelt 3 : wensday a man of war came in with : 200 : shoulders to goo to annoplos to releave our men that went their Last sumer several vessels went out Sum for france with prisoners and the others for New England

July : 4 : Severall moor vessells went out with transports to france

5 : fryday Corprall Laken order<sup>s</sup> Stephen barron to go gard the armes at which S<sup>t</sup> Barren told Corpral to kiss his ass! for which abusive afrunt he ordered him to ride the pikets one our [hour] Colo : Choot comes from New England with : 2 : compnies of men : 6 : fine groeing weather Cap<sup>t</sup> Rous sailed for England for : requits and the Councill sent for 9535 = 2 : 6 : starleing to reapar the Breachess that our cannon and Bumes had made in the sitey & against the walls and upon his saling the men of war fiered a Number of guns Capt Snelleing comes from Newengland with solders July : th : 7 : Sunday fine weather mr : moody preacht in the four noon in the chappill in the barrox in the sity and in

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Moody (H. C. 1697), minister of York, Maine, who died on August 13, 1747, aged 72 years.

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Langdon (H. C. 1740), a native of Boston and minister of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, afterward President of Harvard College. He died on November 29, 1797, aged 75 years.

<sup>3</sup> Bradstreet makes the same incredible statement. Probably by cannons the diarist meant guns or muskets. This expression among the soldiers may have been slang for guns much in the same way as in modern times pistols are called "guns."

the after noon mr williams<sup>1</sup> and mr bolch<sup>2</sup> in the suburbs in the after noon his text was : 1 : peter : 3<sup>c</sup> : 19<sup>v</sup> : 20 vercies Sung : 2 Last staves : 84 :: ps : Sung 2 : Last staves in the : 73 :: Ps : Two men of war went out a cruseing and sum Vessels came in

July : 8 : monday Nine cap<sup>t</sup> viz one out of a rigment Being a committee To search the vessells to see if they had not goot sumthing that they should not carry off that was prohibited : and in seeharching they found : 7 : or 8 hundred pounds worth of Ioron & brought itt on shoor Cap<sup>t</sup> Dennhews<sup>3</sup> : Vessell came in with that sorifull News viz they was in the gut of Canso and : 7 : Indius made sins as if they wanted to come on bord and s<sup>d</sup> Dennehuw went to goo on shoor he and the rest of his offsiars and wheu they came at the shoor their appered : 2 : hundred : Indins and fiered upon them and Destroyed them they was chiefly ofseirs the Neumbr being : 12 : and after they had Barbensly Butchr<sup>d</sup> them they burnt their bodys to aschies

Ju : 9 : Tuesday fine weather our compnies was called to the sittey but for what I do not now July : 10 : very plesent weather onlly in the morning foggy & misty But after wards clears off and is curis weather July : 11 : thursday fine weather a Number went to reasing Vessels they reased a scooner that Never had bin to sea Shee is about : 40 : tun this is the : 3<sup>d</sup> : vessel that has bin ras<sup>d</sup> — A Number of our committy consist of Nine Cap<sup>t</sup> viz one out of a Rigment our Cap<sup>t</sup> being one of : s<sup>d</sup> committy went to the grand Battry and in searcheing they found Iorn and sum clotheing considrabl value.

J 12 : fryday fine weather another vessel raised moor considrabl Plunder brought on shoor from the vessels Several shallops comes in with french : &c :

July : 13 : saturday clearer weather s<sup>d</sup> com<sup>ty</sup> went in search of plundr and found and Brought severll boats Lods on shoor : viz : sum bar Iron sum spiiks sum cabls and other Lumber : 30 : stearleing found by one of our com<sup>ty</sup> severall scholops of french comes in : J : 14 : Sunday cloudy & foggy : &c : in y<sup>e</sup> foor noon mr willims precht from : 1 : of chron<sup>d</sup> : 13 : 20 21 : & 22 : sung : 20 :: P : S : [Psalms] in the after noon mr fairweather<sup>4</sup> Preacht from y<sup>e</sup> 1 : of chron : y<sup>e</sup> : 11 : & : 13 : on s<sup>d</sup> day Took a french prize Shee was

<sup>1</sup> Elisha Williams (H. C. 1711), who had been President of Yale College.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Balch (H. C. 1733), minister of the second parish in Dedham, now Norwood.

<sup>3</sup> Capt. David Donahew, of Marblehead, who commanded a sloop in the fleet.

<sup>4</sup> Samuel Fayerweather (H. C. 1743), chaplain on board of the frigate "Massachusetts," Capt. Edward Tyng. See Sabine's "Loyalists of the American Revolution" (I. 419).

taken by Cap<sup>t</sup> fletcher and he informed us that the ship that our men had a chass when we was in canso that shee arrived att Cannodo :: 32 : Days agoo :

15 : monday fine Weather. July : 16 : the sun arose clear in the morning but Presently clods up and is foggy Several vesselis coms in from New England with shoulders consisteing of 500 :

Wensday : 17 : severall of our men goo home : viz : L : Whitcomb En : hutching : Serg : godfree : Serg : Wainer Corprol Jonson : J : Willard gordin hutching : Went on search after cattle and found : 3 : horciss & : 5 : cows :

: 18 : thursday thanks giving mr Williams Preacht

A sheep Deliver<sup>d</sup> to Every compney and one pint of wine<sup>1</sup> to keep thanks giveing with our sheep after the guts was taken out moor fitt for a Lanthorn than to Eatt Som compnies comes in : 19 : fryday fine weather

A ship sailed for france Loded with transports with a flagg of truce 20 saturday cloudy and raney a flagg of truce salled for france with transports

21 : Sunday Raney in the morneing mr Williams preacht in the foor noon from John : 20 : 31 : and in the after noon the old England people mett att the barrax & the churchmans text was in psalm : 1 : 16 : 12

vessels comes in from Newengland Brought in men women and children July 22 : monday fair weather 23 : Tuesday two of our men of war went out after a ship and when they came up with hir they fired severall Bow guns and sum chase guns att hir and then one brod side and then shee struck to us and shee was Laden with silks and sattins and a great quantney of silver and goald and other Ritch Lodeing Shee had allso : 700 : men on board hur

24 Came in New recurets from New England to help us

25 fair and plessent weather northe[ing] remarkably this day

: 26 : plesent weather

July 27 : Raney and foggy and thick clouds Notheing Remarkabl this Day I lay too awhal

th : 28 : fine weather and pleasent and on s<sup>d</sup> Day their came in a Ritch prize that our men had taken a day or Two ago Shee was Loaded with pepper and other Valabull Lodden

J th : 29 : raney and foggy and sum thick clouds moor men comes in from New England to help us sumtheing of a curmuge Betwn sum of the Land : army and the seafarreing men

J 30 : foggy and cloudy

J 31 : raney and mistey notheing remarkabl this day

<sup>1</sup> The wine served out to the men at this time undoubtedly was loot taken from the enemy.



August: 1: 1745: thursday fair and clear ~~and~~, present wether  
nothing remarkable this day as have heard  
2 fry-day fair & clear thair came in a large prize which our men  
had taken Some days ago laden with silver and gold & other rich  
loaden She had been 3 years in her passage